

## **Public Hearing March 21, 2013**

### **Firearms Ordinance**

Ms. Weinstein called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

The purpose of the hearing is to hear comments concerning changes to the current Article III Firearms Ordinance in Weston's code.

Ms. Weinstein said one of the concerns that came up at the Police Commission meeting is the Residential Target Practice that we currently have in the ordinance. Chief Troxell had said that he has never once issued a permit for residential target practice. They could not find evidence of permits in the file and Mary, the administrative assistant, called around to different Towns in our area to get a sample permit and she couldn't find any Towns that had them. We need to consider whether we do want to allow residential target practice. One of the concerns that Chief Troxell brought up is liability on the Town's part if he issues a permit, and there is a stray bullet.

At this point Selectman Muller joined the meeting by phone.

Jeff Mera- September lane- Asked if this ordinance supersedes all previous regulations regarding fire arms and weapons in Weston. Ms. Weinstein said this is an amendment of article III so this replaces what is currently in our ordinance.

Beth Gralnick- Goodhill Road- When the police commission discussed the draft ordinance at their meeting they felt that under Residential Target Practice it should not just say exclusively at the Weston Field Club and Weston Gun Club. They felt it might be prudent to add "or such other facilities that may be approved by the Board of Selectmen and Chief of Police". Not leaving it exclusively to the Field Club and Gun Club because things change in Town.

Under Prohibition (c) at the very end where it talks about supervisor they felt that under school or camp official it should say "who is 18 years or older".

Under Penalty the commission felt it should say this penalty shall apply to the parent or legal guardian of any "minor" instead of any person.

Ms. Weinstein said the police commission also suggested that under Application for permit (2) regarding the process for constructing a backstop that it may necessitate a visit by a trained certified engineer or police officer capable to approving this type of construction. We may have to add something on the permit application stating that the cost for such hire would be borne by the homeowner.

Bob Ferguson- Hickory Lane- He is totally on board with the ordinance. He was opposed before, but he feels this is exactly what Weston should have in terms of firearms laws. He would not want to see a precedent set for something that we could supersede state law on anything. Ms. Weinstein said we are allowed to put in any ordinances in place that are not

contradictory to state law. Mr. Tracey said we are a sub division of the State so we can't pass any ordinance that isn't within the scope of our authorization under the State law. The State law has a provision that provides that Boards of Selectmen are responsible for the health and welfare of the citizens of the Town, and it is under that authority that we do this.

John Albright- Buttonball Lane- He came across one of the State Statutes that does impose liability on a person who intentionally, negligently or carelessly discharges any firearm in a manner that causes bodily injury or death. He said in some statutes they cover pellet and BB guns as firearms so they might want to look at that and exclude those. He thinks the training idea is a good idea, however it is very difficult to find a gun safety course that focused on rifle safety. Mr. Harper said he would help Mr. Albright find a course.

At 7:28pm Ms. Weinstein closed the public hearing.

Respectfully submitted

Judy M. DeVito  
Administrative Assistant  
Approved 4/4/13